

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method comprising the steps of:
 - 2 receiving graphical image information including control information and rendering
 - 3 information, said control information for controlling a display of said rendering information, wherein
 - 4 said control information comprises an image identifier value;
 - 5 receiving an event identifier value in response to a client initiated action; and
 - 6 displaying said rendering information in response to said event identifier value matching said
 - 7 image identifier value in said control information, wherein said rendering information represents at
 - 8 least one image comprising differential image information for generating a composite image
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said graphical image information includes control
- 2 information and corresponding rendering information representing a plurality of graphical images
- 3 and wherein said method further comprises initially displaying a first graphical image of said
- 4 plurality of graphical images.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said rendering information in said displaying step comprises
- 2 rendering information representing a second graphical image of said plurality of graphical images
- 3 and wherein said first and second graphical images generate said composite image.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein said first and second graphical images respectively represent
- 2 first and second states of a control element in one or more web pages.

1 5. A method comprising:
2 receiving a value for an event parameter associated with a graphical image file;
3 receiving an event corresponding to said event parameter; and
4 displaying rendering information for a graphical image in said graphical image file
5 corresponding to said value of said event parameter in response to said event in said receiving step
6 and wherein said rendering information comprises differential image information, wherein said
7 graphical image file comprises a plurality of graphical images and wherein said method further
8 comprises initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical images, said
9 displaying step comprising displaying rendering information representing a second graphical image
10 of said plurality of graphical images said first and second graphical images generating a composite
11 image.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said event in said receiving step is received from an event
2 handler for a type of said event.

1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of displaying rendering information comprises the
2 steps of:
3 sequentially bypassing a set of graphical images in said plurality of graphical images while
4 a count value does not equal said event parameter value; and
5 if said count value equals said event parameter value, displaying rendering information of
6 a current graphical image in sequence in said plurality of graphical images.

1 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of:
2 initializing said count value; and
3 incrementing said count value for each sequential bypass of said set of graphical images.

1 9. A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for associating
2 graphical images displayed on a web page with client side events comprising the programming steps
3 of:

4 receiving graphical image information including control information and rendering
5 information, said control information for controlling a display of said rendering information, wherein
6 said control information comprises an image identifier value;

7 receiving an event identifier value in response to a client initiated action; and

8 displaying said rendering information in response to said event identifier value matching said
9 image identifier value in said control information, wherein said rendering information represents at
10 least one graphical image comprising differential image information for generating a composite
11 image.

1 10. The computer program product as recited claim 9, wherein said graphical image information
2 includes control information and corresponding rendering information representing a plurality of
3 graphical images, wherein the computer program product further comprises the programming step
4 of:

5 initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical images.

1 11. The computer program product of claim 10, wherein said rendering information in said
2 displaying programming step comprises rendering information representing a second graphical image
3 of said plurality of graphical images and wherein said first and second graphical images generating
4 a composite image.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 9, wherein said first and second graphical images
2 respectively represent first and second states of a control element in one or more web pages.

1 13. A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for associating
2 graphical images displayed on a web page with client side events comprising the programming steps
3 of:

4 receiving a value for an event parameter associated with a graphical image file;

5 receiving an event corresponding to said event parameter; and

6 displaying rendering information for a graphical image in said graphical image file
7 corresponding to said value of said event parameter in response to said event in said receiving step
8 and wherein said rendering information comprises differential image information, wherein said
9 graphical image file comprises a plurality of graphical images, wherein the computer program
10 product further comprises the programming step of:

11 initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical images,
12 wherein said displaying programming step comprises displaying rendering information representing
13 a second graphical image of said plurality of graphical images said first and second graphical images
14 generating a composite image.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein said event in said receiving
2 programming step is received from an event handler for a type of said event.

1 15. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, wherein said graphical image file
2 comprises a plurality of graphical images, wherein said programming step of displaying rendering
3 information comprises the programming steps of:

4 sequentially bypassing a set of graphical images in said plurality of graphical images while
5 a count value does not equal said event parameter value; and

6 if said count value equals said event parameter value, displaying rendering information of
7 a current graphical image in sequence in said plurality of graphical images.

- 1 16. The computer program product as recited in claim 15 further comprises the programming
- 2 steps of:
 - 3 initializing said count value; and
 - 4 incrementing said count value for each sequential bypass of said set of graphical images.

1 17. A system, comprising:

2 a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for associating graphical

3 images displayed on a web page with client side events; and

4 a processor coupled to said memory unit, wherein said processor, responsive to said computer

5 program, comprises:

6 circuitry operable for providing graphical image information including control

7 information and rendering information, said control information for controlling a display of said

8 rendering information, wherein said control information comprises an image identifier value;

9 circuitry operable for receiving an event identifier value in response to a client

10 initiated action; and

11 circuitry operable for displaying said rendering information in response to said event

12 identifier value matching said image identifier value in said control information, wherein said

13 rendering information represents at least one image comprising differential image information for

14 generating a composite image.

15 18. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said graphical image information includes control

16 information and corresponding rendering information representing a plurality of graphical images,

17 wherein said processor further comprises:

18 circuitry operable for initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical

19 images.

- 1 19. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said rendering information for said circuitry
- 2 operable for displaying said rendering information comprises rendering information representing a
- 3 second graphical image of said plurality of graphical images and wherein said first and second
- 4 graphical images generating a composite image.

- 1 20. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said first and second graphical images
- 2 respectively represent first and second states of a control element in one or more web pages.

1 21. A system, comprising:

2 a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for associating graphical
3 images displayed on a web page with client side events; and

4 a processor coupled to said memory unit, wherein said processor, responsive to said computer
5 program, comprises:

6 circuitry operable for receiving a value for an event parameter associated with a
7 graphical image file;

8 circuitry operable for receiving an event corresponding to said event parameter; and

9 circuitry operable for displaying rendering information for a graphical image in said
10 graphical image file corresponding to said value of said event parameter in response to said event
11 in said receiving step and wherein said rendering information comprises differential image
12 information, wherein said processor further comprises:

13 circuitry operable for initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical
14 images, wherein said circuitry operable for displaying comprises displaying rendering information
15 representing a second graphical image of said plurality of graphical images, said first and second
16 graphical images generating a composite image.

1 22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said event in said circuitry operable for receiving
2 is received from an event handler for a type of said event.

1 23. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said graphical image file comprises a plurality of
2 graphical images, wherein said circuitry operable for displaying rendering information comprises:

3 circuitry operable for sequentially bypassing a set of graphical images in said plurality of
4 graphical images while a count value does not equal said event parameter value, wherein if said
5 count value equals said event parameter value then said processor further comprises:

6 circuitry operable for displaying rendering information of a current graphical image
7 in sequence in said plurality of graphical images.

1 24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein said processor further comprises:
2 circuitry operable for initializing said count value; and
3 circuitry operable for incrementing said count value for each sequential bypass of said set of
4 graphical.

1 25. A method comprising the steps of:
2 providing graphical image information including control information and rendering
3 information, said control information for controlling a display of said rendering information, wherein
4 said control information comprises an image identifier value;
5 receiving an event identifier value in response to a client initiated action; and
6 displaying said rendering information in response to said event identifier value matching said
7 image identifier value in said control information, wherein said rendering information includes at
8 least one graphical image comprising differential image information for generating a composite
9 image, said graphical image information including control information and corresponding rendering
10 information representing a plurality of graphical images and wherein said method further comprises
11 initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical images, and wherein said
12 rendering information in said displaying step comprises rendering information representing a second
13 graphical image of said plurality of graphical images, said first and second graphical images
14 generating said composite image.

1 26. A method comprising:
2 receiving a value for an event parameter associated with a graphical image file;
3 receiving an event corresponding to said event parameter; and
4 displaying rendering information for a graphical image in said graphical image file
5 corresponding to said value of said event parameter in response to said event in said receiving step,
6 wherein said rendering information comprises differential image information, wherein said graphical
7 image file comprises a plurality of graphical images and wherein said method further comprises
8 initially displaying a first graphical image of said plurality of graphical images, said displaying step
9 comprising displaying rendering information representing a second graphical image of said plurality
10 of graphical images and wherein said first and second graphical images generate a composite image.

1 27. A system, comprising:

2 a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for generating pages; and

3 a processor coupled to said memory unit, wherein said processor, responsive to said computer

4 program, comprises:

5 circuitry operable for generating said page for transmission to a client via a network, said

6 page including a graphical control element, said graphical control element being responsive to user

7 input, wherein said graphical control element comprises graphical image information, said graphical

8 image information including control extension information and rendering information, said control

9 extension information for controlling a display of said rendering information;

10 wherein said control extension information includes an image identifier value, said image

11 identifier value for associating said user input with a display of rendering information; and

12 wherein said rendering information includes at least one graphical image comprising

13 differential image information for generating a composite image representing a selected state of said

14 control element.

1 28. The system of claim 27 wherein said graphical image information includes control extension

2 information and rendering information representing a plurality of graphical images, and wherein at

3 least a first one and a second one of said plurality of graphical images generate said composite image.

1 29. The system of claim 28 wherein said rendering information further includes rendering

2 information for representing said graphical control element in an initial state.

1 30. A computer program product embodied in a tangible, machine readable medium, including
2 a data structure, said data structure comprising:

3 a plurality of graphical images, each of said plurality of graphical images including rendering
4 information, and control information associated with said rendering information for controlling a
5 display of said rendering information, said control information including an image identifier value;
6 wherein said image identifier value is operable for associating user input with a display of
7 corresponding rendering information; and

8 wherein said rendering information includes at least one graphical image representing
9 differential image information for generating a composite image.

1 31. The program product of claim 30 wherein said composite image is operable for generation
2 in response to said user input.

1 32. The program product of claim 30 wherein said control information further includes a disposal
2 value operable for controlling a disposal method of displayed rendering information.